20. **Excise.** Tobacco is largely consumed in the State and brings in a considerable revenue to Government. The receipts for 1079 were Rs. 12,32,608 showing an increase of Rs. 92,842 over 1078.

21. **Abkari, Opium and Bhang.** The revenue derived from Abkari, Opium and Bhang was Rs. 8,49,786, an increase of Rs. 1,05, 845 over the previous year's revenue. In the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions the excise system of collecting Abkari revenue was in force; while the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions were worked under the farming system.

22. **Customs.** In 1865 an Interportal convention was entered into between Travancore and the British Government by which fiscal restrictions on trade between Travancore and British India were removed. As regards imports this State is bound under the convention to adopt the British tariff in its entirety. Travancore retains its own export tariff but its policy has been to keep the tariff as low as possible. With a view to encourage local industry in the manufacture of cocoanut oil, the tariff value put on the same on export was reduced in 1079 from Rs. 12 to Rs. 10 The receipts were Rs. 8,94,090 and the charges Rs. 30,973.

23. **Sanitation.** Up to 1894 the conservancy and sanitation of towns were regulated by executive rules and orders passed by Government from time to time. In that year a Regulation was passed to provide for the better sanitation of towns. This Regulation was amended in 1901 by Regulation III of 1076 which provides for the imposition of taxes for municipal purposes. Though the Regulation is in force in the five important towns in the State—Kottayam, Alleppey, Quilon, Trivandrum and Nagercoil, the system of local taxation has only recently been introduced in some of them and that on a very limited scale. The greater portion of the funds for the conservancy and improvement of these towns is provided by Government out of the general revenues. This I need not say is not fair to the general tax-payer. The people residing in towns should endeavour to meet their local wants out of taxes contributed by themselves without indenting on the State treasury. I am sure that you will all realize the necessity for taking a step forward in this direction and impress upon your fellow townsmen that the tax-payers in the rural districts cannot in justice be expected to contribute for purposes which do not benefit them. Government would in the meantime continue their contribution until the towns are able to raise their own funds for local purposes.

The special department under the charge of the Sanitary Commissioner embraces vaccination, vital statistics, rural sanitation and itinerant medical relief.

During the past year the number of births registered was 54,292 and that of deaths 42,293. The figures are only approximately correct, the registration of births and deaths not being compulsory. 1,50,117 persons were vaccinated during the year of whom over 13,000 were infants.

The year was exceptionally free from epidemics. Fever, diarrhœa and dysentery prevailed however to a considerable extent.

24. **Medical relief.** There were 22 hospitals, 20 dispensaries, 2 asylums for lunatics and lepers and 8 grant-in-aid dispensaries. The total number of in-patients treated during the year was 15,739, and of out-patients 6,07,904.

The Victoria Medical School for midwives at Quilon is doing good work. Nine students passed out last year and a new batch of eight stipendiaries is now under training. There are 32 midwives now employed in the Medical Department.

Recruitments of the medical staff are now confined to Licentiates and Graduates in the Superior Grade and Hospital Assistants in the Inferior Grade.

Two Hindu students are now undergoing a course of medical training in Edinburgh with the aid of State scholarships.

A small Veterinary Hospital was opened at the capital in 1888. 224 cases were admitted for treatment last year. This institution has been declared to be an Infirmary under Regulation IV of 1078 for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

25. **Education.** It is well known that in point of education Travancore is ahead of British India and other Native States. According to the last Census the

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proportion of literates was 124 in 1000, against 88 in Baroda, 63 in Madras and 51 in Mysore.

In female education also Travancore maintains its preeminence, 31 females in 1000 being literate. In Bombay the proportion is 11, in Madras and Mysore 8.

Last year *i. e.* 1079 there were 3,727 institutions of all kinds with 1,97,385 scholars against 3,821 and 1,96,593 in 1078. The Government and aided schools have increased by 32, but private unaided schools have decreased by 126 which probably indicates that pial schools conducted by old Asans are gradually losing their ground and the people are realising the value of the training as imparted in Government and aided schools.

26. **Female Education.** The Normal School for Female Teachers, which was formerly attached to the Vernacular High School, was removed to the Girls' College and thrown open to all castes.

The total number of girls under instruction last year throughout the State was 46,332 which is 12·8 per cent of the school-going girl population.

27. **Primary Education.** You are already aware that the Government took an important step in regard to primary education during the year under consideration. The Government have accepted the responsibility of imparting primary education to all children in the State irrespective of caste or creed. As a first step towards the realisation of this responsibility the backward classes were taken in hand and Government have ruled that, in regard to schools in which the majority of scholars come from the specified classes, the entire cost of primary education should be borne by the State. Where there are no agencies existing for extending the benefit of education to these classes, Government propose to employ their own agency for the purpose. Steps also have been taken for training teachers for these backward class schools at the 4 principal centres of the State. The number of pupils last year receiving primary education was 183,328 against 1,77,691 in the previous year which is 47. 3 per cent of the population between the ages of 5 and 10.

28. **Backward Classes Schools.** In 1079 there were 480 schools against 471 in 1078. The scholars under instruction were 43,580 including those attending schools open to all classes, against 30,000 in the year previous.

29. **Technical Education.** The Industrial School of Arts at Trivandrum continues to train apprentices in several branches of industry such as pottery, ivory-carving, carpet-weaving, extraction of plantain fibre and smithery. In 1079 there were 15 apprentices.

The following Private Aided Technical schools were started during the past Malabar year and were given liberal grants under the rules published in 1077.

(1) Srimula Rama Varma Technical Institute at Nagercoil giving instruction in engineering, draftsman's work, surveying, maistries' work, carpentry, blacksmith's work, weaving, coir manufacture and commercial subjects.

(2) The Native Technical Institute at Trivandrum.

(3) The Weaving Institute at Attingal.

(4) Rama Varma Technical Institute at Changanacherry.

(5) Maniamkulam coir manufactory.

Technical Scholarships. Besides the 2 medical students there are 3 other students now in Europe in receipt of Government scholarships, 1 for Geology, 1 Mining and 1 Agricultural Chemistry. The services of these young men will be utilised by the State on their return.

30. **Agricultural Education.** An Agricultural Demonstration Farm is maintained by Government at Trivandrum, where indigenous crops are cultivated on improved and scientific methods and exotics are introduced for purposes of trial. Plants, cuttings and seeds are supplied to cultivators who may wish to try the growing of exotics.

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